

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1.-37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A method for offering products, comprising:
providing a set of available product data records in a memory, each available product data record containing a specification for an associated available product;
providing a set of variance data records in the memory, each variance data record containing an allowed variance to an associated available product;
displaying the set of available product data records and the set of variance data records on a visual display; and
receiving an input, via a user interface selection device, of a user selection from the set of variance data records.

39.-41. (Cancelled)

42. (New) A method comprising:
providing an online catalog on a computer, the catalog having an unavailable product/attribute selector to select an unavailable product or attribute that is not offered for sale;
and
using selections of unavailable products or attributes that are not offered for sale as market research to determine whether to extend a product offering that includes the unavailable products or attributes.

43. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
suggesting an existing/standard product based upon and as a replacement for the selection.

44. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
determining a resource cost for the unavailable product/attribute.

45. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
assigning a category of design requirements to the unavailable product/attribute.
46. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising:
determining a resource cost for the unavailable product/attribute;
assigning a first category to the unavailable product/attribute if the resource cost is relatively lower;
assigning a second category to the unavailable product/attribute if the resource cost is relatively higher.
47. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising:
transmitting a request for the unavailable product/attribute to an address associated with the assigned category.
48. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising:
transmitting the request to a manufacturing facility for the unavailable product/attribute if it is assigned to a first predefined category.
49. (New) The method of claim 47, further comprising:
transmitting the request to an engineering department for the unavailable product/attribute if it is assigned to a second predefined category.
50. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
providing a list of available products in the online catalog.
51. (New) The method of claim 50, further comprising:
obsoleting an available product by moving it from the list of available products to a list of unavailable products.

52. (New) The method of claim 42, further comprising:
receiving an order of an available product and transmitting a request to a manufacturing facility.

53. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the unavailable product/attribute selector comprises a list of unavailable products/attributes.

54. (New) The method of claim 53, further comprising:
classifying an item in the list of unavailable products/attributes.

55. (New) The method of claim 42, wherein the unavailable product/attribute selector comprises an online form.

56. (New) A system comprising:
a processor;
a user interface selection device in communication with the processor, the user interface selection device adapted to display a list of products or attributes that are not currently offered in a line of available products or attributes from a provider; and
compile selections of selections of the available products to used as market research for a decision of whether to extend a product offering to include the list of products or attributes.

57. (New) The method of claim 56, further comprising:
storing in a memory of the computer system a list of unavailable products/attributes.

58. (New) The method of claim 57, further comprising:
displaying the list of unavailable products/attributes on a visual interface of the computer system.

59. (New) The method of claim 57, further comprising:
storing in a memory of the computer system a category of design requirements associated with the unavailable products/attributes.

60. (New) The method of claim 56, further comprising:
receiving a selection of an unavailable product/attribute via a selection signal from a user interface selection device of the computer system; and
displaying a resource cost of the unavailable product/attribute on a visual interface of the computer system.

61. (New) The method of claim 56, further comprising:
receiving a selection of an unavailable product/attribute via a selection signal from a user interface selection device of the computer system; and
identifying, by a CPU of the computer system, one or more available products, from the list of available products, that has similar characteristics to those of the selected unavailable product/attribute; and
displaying the identified one or more available products on a visual interface of the computer system.

62. (New) The method of claim 56, further comprising:
generating a specification for a product in response to receiving, by a CPU of the computer system, a selection signal from the user interface selection device of an unavailable product/attribute.